

ROCHESTER BOARD OF EDUCATION

Special Meeting Minutes
Policy Committee of the Whole
December 17, 2019
Minutes

Board Members in Attendance: President White, Commissioner Powell, Commissioner Davis, Vice President Elliott, Commissioner Lebron, Commissioner Sheppard, and Commissioner Hallmark (via video conferencing “Zoom” at 5:55 p.m.)

Board Members Excused: N/A

Commissioners Elect in Attendance: Ricardo Adams and Amy Maloy

Administration and Board Officers in Attendance: Superintendent, Terry Dade; General Counsel, Karl Kristoff; District Clerk, Marisol Ramos-Lopez; Board Staff, Kallia Wade

President White convened the Special Meeting at 5:40 p.m.

A **motion** was made by Commissioner Lebron to suspend article 10 of the bylaws so that all speakers on the speakers list be allowed to address the board for 2 minutes at the current meeting. Seconded by Commissioner Powell. **Adopted 6-0**, with Commissioner Hallmark absent.

A **motion** was made by Commissioner Powell to suspend article 10 of the bylaws so that all speakers on the speakers list be allowed to address the board for 2 minutes at the December 19, 2019 Board Business Meeting. Seconded by Commissioner Lebron. **Adopted 6-0**, with Commissioner Hallmark absent.

- I. Speakers:** Speakers addressed the Board regarding the proposed budget and teacher cuts, racial equity, and the REAL Team as follows: Shayliana Noartey, a student spoke about teacher cuts; Paradize Martel, a student spoke about teacher cuts; Violet O’Connor, a student spoke about teacher cuts; Naomi Hernandez-Cahill, a student spoke about teacher cuts; Jahmier Pray a student spoke about teacher cuts; Nahmier Pray a student spoke about teacher cuts; Chrishton Wester, a student spoke about teacher cuts; Antwone Jenkins, a student spoke about teacher cuts; Maya Waller, a student spoke about teacher cuts; Tatiyana Spencer, a student spoke about teacher cuts; Shi’yonna Steele a student spoke about teacher cuts; Jahzara McGee-Burgess, a student spoke about teacher cuts; Pearson Bracken, a student spoke about teacher cuts; Gabriel Bracken, a student spoke about teacher cuts; Anielys Garcia, a student spoke about budget cuts; De’Marr Barber a student spoke about budget cuts; Patrick McGrath, a student spoke about budget cuts; Amanda Antonetti, a parent spoke about teacher cuts;

LaShunda Toussaint, a parent spoke about teacher cuts; Ashley Cohen, a parent spoke about teacher cuts; Jennifer Nieves, a parent spoke about teacher cuts; Evelyn Jones, a parent spoke about teacher cuts; Siobhan Fisher, a parent spoke about teacher cuts; Jina Grisdale, a parent spoke about teacher cuts; Shirah Cahill, a parent spoke about teacher cuts; Suzie Gutierrez, a parent spoke about teacher cuts; Christine O'Connor a parent spoke about teacher cuts; Rebecca Hetherington, a parent spoke about teacher cuts; Kristine Deuvall, a parent spoke about teacher cuts; Ethan Benjamin Winn, a parent spoke about teacher cuts; Abigail McHugh-Grifa, a parent spoke about teacher cuts; Kenneth Paul, a parent spoke about teacher cuts; Amanda Adams, a parent spoke about teacher cuts; Iona Miles, a parent spoke about teacher cuts; Frank Starpoli, a community member spoke about racial equity; Howard Eagle, a community member spoke about REAL Team; Eric Hines, a community member spoke about teacher cuts; Luis Perez, a community member spoke about summer learning; Tom Carbone, a community member spoke about racial equity; Carla Carey, a staff member spoke about teacher cuts; Casandra Musolino, a staff member spoke about teacher cuts; Yahoda Miller, a staff member spoke about teacher cuts; Kristina Donovan, a staff member spoke about teacher cuts; Kristen French, a staff member spoke about teacher cuts; LeAnna Presler, a staff member spoke about budget cuts; Sheila Howland, a staff member spoke about budget cuts.

II. Special Meeting Discussion Topics

Update on the Board's Section of the DE Action Plan

Vice President Elliott addressed the Committee noting the ongoing nature of the Board's work to address the action plan as defined in the Distinguished Educator's Report. Board Staff, Kallia Wade provided a report from the project management tool JIRA to illustrate the Board's progress on several of the action items. Commissioner Sheppard commented, noting deadlines of certain action items. Commissioner Lebron requested that prioritization take place with regards to the items with past due dates. Ms. Wade noted that several of the dates were to be readdressed and updated. Additionally, several items would be removed from the tracking mechanism as they were no longer being implemented as action items.

Review and Discuss the 2019-20 First Quarter Student Activity Funds and Elementary Activity Accounts Report

The Board considered the 2019-20 First Quarter Student Activity Funds and Elementary Activity Accounts Report that was originally presented at the 12/10/19 Finance COW.

Motion to adopt the 2019-20 First Quarter Student Activity Funds and Elementary Activity Accounts Report was made by President White. Seconded by Vice President Elliott. **Adopted 5-2** with Commissioner Davis and Commissioner Sheppard dissenting.

Review and Discuss the Proposed Resolutions for the December 19, 2019 Board

Business Meeting: 2019-20 Budget Amendments

This discussion was tabled for after the Policy COW agenda in order to gain input from the administration.

III. Policy Committee of the Whole Meeting:

President White surrendered the meeting to Commissioner Sheppard as Chair of the Board's Policy Development and Review Committee at 7:31PM. Commissioner Sheppard convened the Committee of the Whole meeting to provide an update the proposed "Prohibited Suspension Policy" as well as to introduce the agenda items for discussion at the January 7, 2020 Policy Committee meeting.

Review and Acceptance of the Minutes of the November 5, 2019 Policy Committee Meeting

Motion by President White to approve the minutes of the November 5, 2019 Policy Committee meeting. Seconded by Commissioner Lebron. **Adopted 7-0.**

Commissioner Powell noted a correction with the November 5, 2019 minutes. Board Staff Wade to update the minutes to reflect the change.

Motion by Commissioner Powell to approve the minutes of the November 5, 2019 Policy Committee meeting as amended. Seconded by President White. **Adopted 7-0.**

Commissioner Hallmark left at 7:33pm

Proposed "Prohibited Suspension" Policy

Commissioner Sheppard once more brought the Commissioners' attention to the draft of the "Prohibited Suspension" Policy that was first introduced in the November 5th Policy Meeting. General Counsel Kristoff noted several concerns about the policy:

- Inconsistencies with Statute 3214 (sub
- This policy must be considered in an amended form, if moving forward with the proposal
- To change the policy, the Policy Committee would need to refer the topic to the CIGR Committee so that the Board could push it on the legislative agenda for a legislative change
- The Board must comply with State law

The Commissioners held a conversation on the feasibility of pushing the proposed Prohibited Suspension Policy given the restriction in the statute and state law. Commissioner Lebron requested that the policy be brought back to the table with policy recommendations or edits from the legal department so that the Board could consider a different draft,

Policy 2260: Advisory Bodies

President White provided context for the need to update the policy, indicating the reference to establish an advisory body in the DE Action Plan. He noted that any delay in updating the policy could potentially delay addressing the establishment of said advisory committee.

As an aside, Commissioner Lebron requested that policies presented by shared with both the draft and original attached. Board Staff Wade to ensure that this takes place

Commissioner Lebron noted that the Advisory Bodies Policy should note that the position is voluntary. She also requested that the Board revisit the Consultant policy in January. The Commissioners discussed a need to align the Board's values and the need to develop a stable process for the establishment of advisory bodies.

Policy 2300: Board Bylaws

The Commissioners discussed the need to update the Board's Bylaws once more to address Board members' attendance requirements at Board meetings/events. Commissioner Elliott also noted that the Vice President Role should be more clearly defined in the Bylaws. This was also suggested for the President's role.

President White reconvened the Special Meeting at 8:03pm in order to hold discussions on the remainder of the special meeting's agenda topics

IV. Special Meeting Discussion Topics (continued)

Review and Discuss the Proposed Resolutions for the December 19, 2019 Board Business Meeting: 2019-20 Budget Amendments

Commissioner Powell led the discussion on the Budget Amendments, noting that the numbers presented were reflected in the monthly reports already reviewed in the December Finance Committee of the Whole meeting. Superintendent Dade confirmed this and advised the commissioners that the resolutions would be presented for vote at the 12/19/19 Board Business Meeting.

As an aside, Commissioner Lebron posed a question regarding the tenure recommendations in the 48-hour resolutions packet: How are persons up for tenure while others are up for reduction? Superintendent Date and General Counsel Kristoff responded to this inquiry. General Counsel Kristoff to provide further resources to Commissioner Lebron

Action: Commissioner Lebron requested information on the tenure areas.

- V. Meeting adjourned** at approximately 8:15 p.m. Motion to adjourn made by Commissioner Elliott, seconded by Commissioner Davis. **Motion carries 6-0** with Commissioner Hallmark absent.